

REMARKS

The Office Action allows claims 14 and 15, and indicates that claims 4-11 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 4-11 and 18 as required for allowance. Applicants have also amended rejected claims 2, 3, 12, 13, 16 and 17 to depend on allowable claims, and therefore believe these claims are also allowable, as they add further limitations to allowable claims. Claim 1 is cancelled.

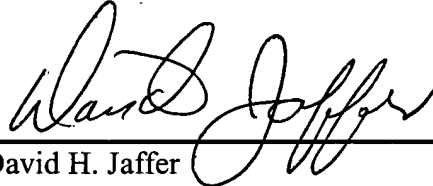
A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed on May 28, 2004, including two patents cited in a European search report dated April 7, 2004. The Supplemental IDS crossed in the mail with the Office Action mailed May 19, 2004. Copies of the Supplemental IDS and references are enclosed. Applicants request that the Examiner consider these references in view of the currently pending claims. Applicants believe the present claims distinguish over the references in the European search report. Applicants believe no petition or fee is required, as the Supplemental IDS was filed within three months of the date of the search. If this is incorrect, please consider this a petition for consideration of the Supplemental IDS, and charge Deposit Account No. 502213 the required fee.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the claims as now amended are in condition for allowance. If any further questions should arise prior to a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney as set forth below.

Date: 9-22-04, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 9-22, 2004, by Diana Dearing.

